

Chapter 17.

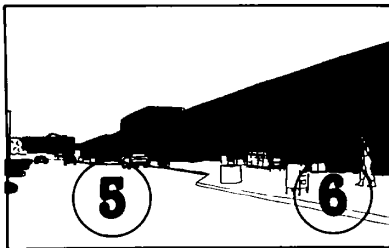
Community Facilities.

Fig. 17-1: Community Facility Problem.

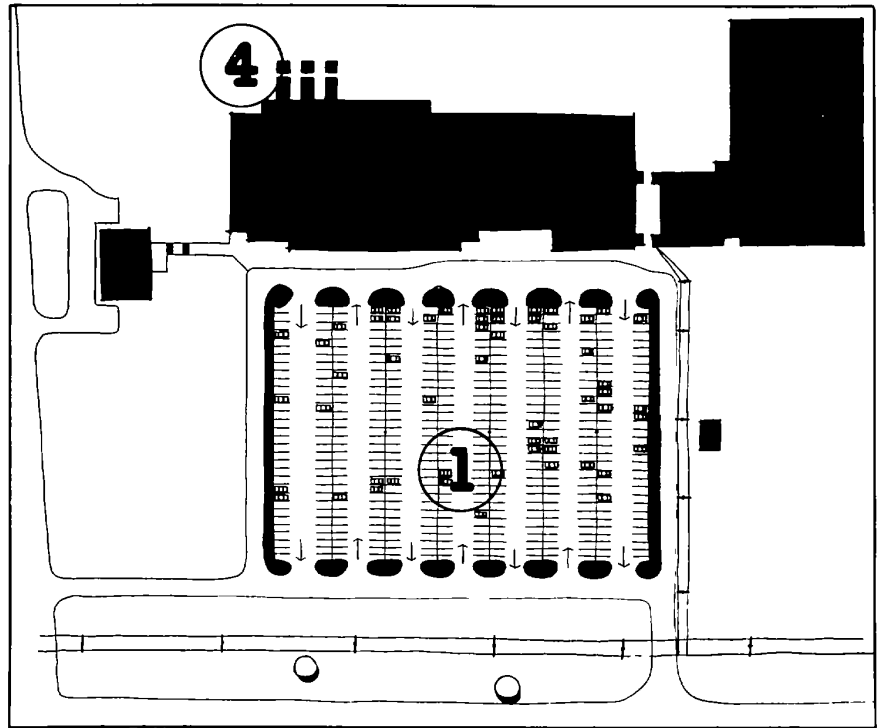
Community facilities on military installations are analogous to the "shopping center" in civilian communities. They are typically comprised of the exchange, commissary, post office, library and commercial/retail type uses such as a bowling alley, barber shop, beauty shop, bank, dry cleaners and theater, clustered together in a central facility.

The example illustrated here contains typical visual problems associated with such facilities on many installations, including:

1. An expansive, barren parking lot dominating the visual setting and presenting unattractive views from the main road.
2. Signing whose location and design is ineffective, inconsistent or confusing.



3. Overhead utilities that clutter the setting.
4. Loading dock areas that can be seen from adjacent land uses and roads.



5. Lack of pedestrian crossing area definition.
6. Building frontage lacking definition as a pedestrian space and having uncoordinated and cluttered street furniture.

7. Parking lot lighting which lacks human scale, has inconsistent fixtures and pole types and lacks adequate protection from automobiles.

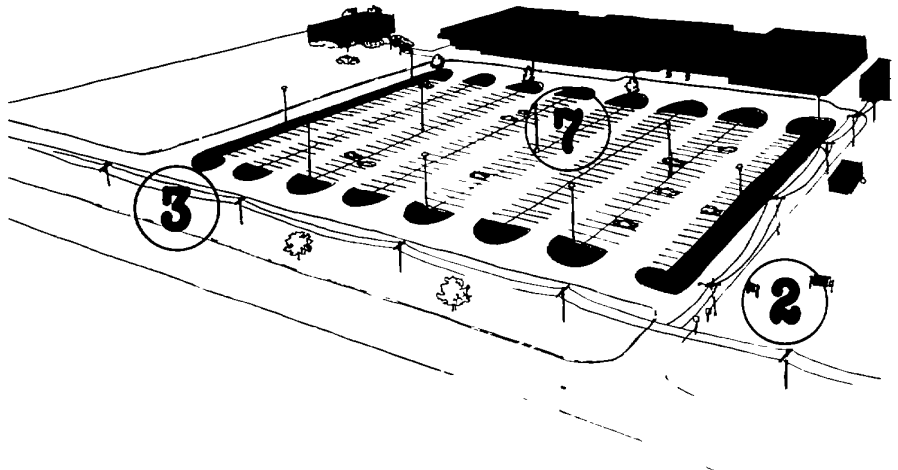
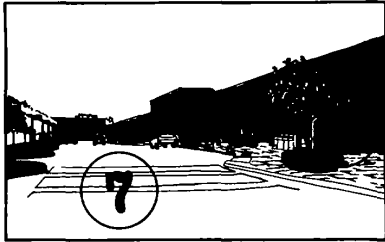


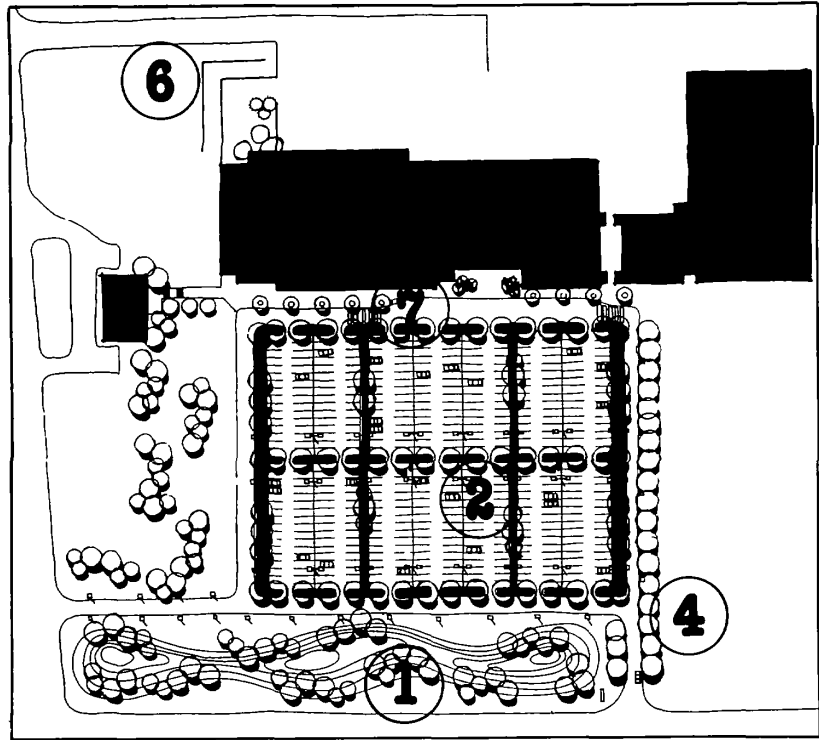
Fig. 17-2: Community Facility Solution.

The primary design objective here is oriented toward directing and circulating traffic safely while reducing the visual impact of the expansive barren parking lot that serves the complex. Specific improvements include:

1. Informal perimeter earth berm mounding and planting that screens the parking lot from main roads.
2. Redesigned parking lot layout that provides planting islands to break up the large expanse of paving, as well as to provide scale, shade and an area to deposit ploughed snow during winter months.



3. Effective entrance sign and coordinated directional signing system.
4. Deciduous street trees along the entrance drive and end islands of the parking lot that visually define vehicular circulation.
5. Overhead utilities relocated underground to reduce clutter.
6. Screening and fencing of loading dock service area.
7. Crosswalk striping that warns motorists of the pedestrian crossing area.



8. Parking lot lighting fixtures of coordinated design, pole locations protected from automobile damage and pole heights that do not have an overpowering scale.

9. Plants and coordinated pedestrian furnishings and amenities that define the pedestrian-oriented areas and highlight the building entrances.

